

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A recording medium comprising on an ink-recording surface side an ink-receiving layer that contains at least a pigment for retaining a coloring material of ink and a binder for the pigment, wherein the ink-receiving layer includes a first layer region where the binder is cross-linked by a first crosslinking agent to become uniform relative to the pigment, and a second layer region where the binder is cross-linked by a second crosslinking agent such that the degree of crosslinking of the second layer region is larger than that of the first layer region, and

wherein the first layer region is located closer to the ink-recording surface side than the second layer region, and

wherein the binder is substantially uniformly distributed in the ink-receiving layer.

2. (Previously Presented) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein

the first crosslinking agent and the second crosslinking agent contain the same element, and

the degree of crosslinking is a relative quantitative difference between the element in the first layer region and the element in the second layer region, which is brought about by the first and second crosslinking agents.

3. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 1, wherein the ink-receiving layer is formed by applying a coating liquid on a wet surface, the coating liquid being prepared by dissolving and mixing at least alumina hydrate as the pigment, polyvinyl alcohol as the binder and ortho-boric acid as the first crosslinking agent for the formation of the first layer region, the wet surface containing tetraborate as the second crosslinking agent for the formation of the second layer region.

4. (Original) A recording medium according to claim 3, wherein the content of the ortho-boric acid contained in the coating liquid per unit area is less than the content of the sodium tetraborate contained in the wet surface per unit area.

5. (Previously Presented) A recording medium according to claim 2, wherein the pigment is alumina hydrate, the binder is polyvinyl alcohol, the same element contained in the first and second crosslinking agents is boron "B" and the content of boron "B" in the second layer region is at least twice as high as the content of boron "B" in the first layer region.

6. (Original) A recording medium according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the ink-receiving layer has a weight of 30 g/m² or more.

7-26. (Cancelled)